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## Bush hope for close presidential links

From David Bonavia  
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Mr George Bush said in Peking today that he expected his nomination as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) would give him access to President Ford, perhaps on the same footing as Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State.

Replying to a question at his residence in the United States Liaison Office, Mr Bush said: "Because of my relationship with the President, which has been rather close over the years, I would expect to have access which I hope I would not abuse."

Mr Bush, who has been

America's envoy to China for the past year, said he learnt of President Ford's choice of him as director of the CIA while he was riding his bicycle last Sunday on a Peking street. "They sent a guy to tell me there was a message for me."

He added: "Anyone who sees this job as a springboard to political fortune must be hallucinating". He said he was glad to serve in a difficult and controversial posting at the pleasure of the President and declared: "I believe that we must have a strong CIA."

Mr Bush did, however, establish himself as Peking's leading tennis star and the Coca-Cola and hot-dog party which he

gave on July 4 proved highly popular.

Mr Bush managed slightly to raise the "profile" of the United States Liaison Office in Peking by taking part in the diplomatic social round more than Mr Bruce did, but Dr Kissinger's personal style of diplomacy tended to exclude an important role for the Peking-based officials.

The Chinese leadership is expected to regret the dismissal of Dr James Schlesinger as Defence Secretary. They had recently admired him more than any other members of the Ford Administration on account of his tough stand against the Russians.